rather poor character of the plates of 1899 makes a definite decision impossible.

The star T *Tauri* itself has a very interesting nebulous wing which is either variable or must rotate so as to be concealed at times. This appendage is a small cone-shaped projection perhaps four seconds of arc in length in position angle 150 ± °. It was often seen by TEMPEL, and was fairly conspicuous when examined by BARNARD and BURNHAM in 1890, but entirely invisible when BARNARD looked for it in February, 1895. It can be clearly made out in the elongated image of T *Tauri* on both the Crossley plates of 1899. On the 1914 plates it is certainly not present; the disk of the variable is perfectly round, tho perhaps with just a trace of nebulosity all around it. It is evident that this interesting variable will repay further investigation.

H. D. CURTIS.

SEARCH FOR FAINT MEMBERS OF THE TAURUS CLUSTER.

Dr. HERTZSPRUNG suggested in 1914 that it would be of interest to compare the earlier plates of the region of T *Tauri* with recent plates in the endeavor to find very faint members of the well-known Taurus stream. This region is about five degrees from the center of the *Hyades,* and a proper motion of 1″.6 would be expected in the interval of nearly fifteen years. A motion of this amount should show clearly on the Crossley plates.

The measures were made entirely differential, with respect to a common system of five stars of eighth to ninth magnitude; and twelve faint stars of from fourteenth to eighteenth magnitudes were selected at random in the area of best definition. None of the small relative motions found agree either in magnitude or direction with the motion of the components of the Taurus stream. Within the limited area examined the results must be regarded as purely negative.

H. D. CURTIS.

NOTE ON COMET *d* 1915 (MELLISH).

Comet *d* 1915 was first seen by Mr. JOHN E. MELLISH, of the Yerkes Observatory, on September 13, 1915.

The first observation received at the Students' Observatory

was one by Dr. AITKEN, taken on September 20th. Another observation on September 21st by AITKEN, and one by VAN BIESBROECK at the Yerkes Observatory, on September 18th, arrived the following day. On the basis of these three observations a preliminary orbit was computed by Mr. ALTER and the undersigned. (H. C. O. Bulletin 590). Four more observations have been received to date: two by AITKEN on September 22d and 23d respectively, and two by VAN BIESBROECK on September 20th and 21st respectively. AITKEN'S observations of September 20th, 21st and 23d were used in the calculation of new elements, which are published with an ephemeris in Lick Observatory Bulletin, Number 273.

The comet passed within 41,000,000 miles of the Sun on October 13, 1915. Its nearest approach to the Earth occurred on October 2d, when it was approximately 123,000,000 miles away. It changed from a morning to an evening object on October 6, 1915. The inclination of its orbit plane to the ecliptic is 54°. The longitude of its ascending node is 78°. This places the path of this comet in a plane nearly coincident with that of comet *a* 1915, discovered by MELLISH on February 10, 1915.

Owing to its rapidly increasing southern declination, and nearness to the Sun, it is doubtful if any more observations of the comet can be secured in the northern hemisphere. Lick Observatory Bulletin, Number 273, gives its position to December 30, 1915. Its declination on that date is — 49°, and in right ascension it is, at that time, only one hour east of the Sun. Its distance from the Earth on December 30, 1915, will be 239,000,000 miles.

S. EINARSSON.

STUDENTS' OBSERVATORY,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
November 3, 1915.

NOTE ON COMET *d* 1915 (MELLISH).

A telegram was received at the Lick Observatory on September 19, 1915, from Director FROST of the Yerkes Observatory requesting observations of a new comet discovered by Mr. JOHN E. MELLISH. The comet was found that night